

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al. Group Art Unit : 2626  
Appl. No. : 10/596,773 Examiner: Natalie Lennox  
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/019014)  
I.A. Filed : December 22, 2004 Confirmation No.: 1328  
For : VOICE/MUSICAL SOUND ENCODING DEVICE AND VOICE/MUSICAL  
SOUND ENCODING METHOD

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Responsive to the mailing of a Final Office Action of November 10, 2009 in the above-captioned application, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for responding thereto runs to February 10, 2010, but in which a response is being filed by the two month response due date running to January 11, 2010 (January 10, 2010 being a Sunday), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.